



Henk and Catharina celebrate the perfect Golden Anniversary on Aruba

For Henk and Catherina Huyser, devoted visitors to Aruba for many years, the course of true love did not originally run smooth, but it did triumph. They are in Aruba with two of their grown children, Hendrik Huyser, III named for his dad and granddad, and their daughter Shirley with her family. Henk and Catharina confessed that for them, the “only place to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary was in the place we love best, Aruba.” Their children chime in with complete agreement.

When Henk and Catharina originally met in Rotterdam, they were both young and filled with dreams of America, “The Land of Opportunity.” It was a story out of any romance movie of the fifties; Boy meets girl; boy proposed to girl and she said yes; then boy loses girl, for reasons unrevealed to this day. Catharina decided TO pursue her dream, and emigrated to the United States; staying with her Tante Catrien. Henk soon followed; why let a perfectly good visa go to waste? They reunited, and within four months married in June of 1956.

Henk’s struggle of studying and working at the same time paid off with a good career with IBM and they prospered, finally settling in Mahwah, New Jersey, and living what they consider a “dream life.” They had three lovely children that did well, unfortunately, due to last minute circumstances beyond their control, their son Ted and his family could not join them for the family gathering. This did not stop them from enjoying a lovely celebratory dinner at the Red Parrot Restaurant in their favorite resort, the Divi Mega All-Inclusive.

Catharina admits to a certain bias for the Divi, as she was their sales representative in the states for many years hired by the original founder, Wally Wiggins. After the resort changed hands, she worked with the Aruba Tourism Authority, assisting them at conventions and such, and then returned under the new owners to represent the Divi-Tamarijn complex once again until only a few years ago. Her unbridled love and enthusiasm for the island has earned her the title “The Unofficial Ms. Aruba” amongst those that know her well, and she and Henk expressed their pleasure in discovering the “real Aruba” away from the tourist track.

Being from The States, but with Dutch origins, made Henk and Catharina stand out from the usual island visitor, and for them, coming to Aruba has always been “like a visit to the Old Country, but with better weather.” They particularly love walking the back streets of Oranjestad, meeting and making friends with the small shop owners that they visit with repeatedly over the years. Like many that have vacationed on the island regularly, they consider it their “home away from home,” involving themselves with the community and the people. The residents of Aruba are no longer the “locals,” they are their friends who welcome them warmly each time they return.

This year, daughter Shirley is joined by her husband David and their teenage sons, David and Christopher, who have not been back to Aruba for many years, “but it is all they talked about since their first visit when they were little.” The entire family stated they are making new discoveries with this return visit, aside from enjoying a very special celebration, making it another memorable time on the island.

Congratulations to Henk and Shirley on this special occasion. THE NEWS wishes you many more years of wedded bliss and anniversary celebrations in Aruba with your family!